

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 EB-07 OIC-02 CIAE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 NSC-05 /072 W
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R 091702Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6034

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS 968

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01327

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: RESULTS OF INITIAL EUROPEAN MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION:

ROME, FEB 2, 1976

REF: ROME 1840

1. WE REVIEWED RESULTS OF ROME MEETING WITH RESPONSIBLE BELGIAN
FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS (VAN DE KERCKHOVE AND CHAMPENOIS)

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WHO REPEATED TO US SUBSTANCE OF THOROUGH BRIEFING REPORTED REFTTEL,

BASED ON THEIR PRESENCE AT ROME. THEY NOTED THAT LEADER OF BELGIAN DEL, DAVIGNON, HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH OUTCOME.

2. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED FROM BELGIAN BRIEFING WHICH NOT COVERED IN REFTEL:

(A) BEGIN NOFORN. DUTCH HAD HOPED TO BE SELECTED AS INITIAL CHAIRMAN OF " INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG)." DUTCH INTEREST IN THIS REGARD FALTERED AMONG OTHER REASONS FOR LACK OF BELGIAN SUPPORT. DUTCH HAD CONSULTED WITH BELGIANS PRIOR TO ROME MEETING, BUT HAD FAILED TO INFORM BELGIANS OF THEIR INTEREST IN CHAIRMANSHIP. WHEN DUTCH INTEREST SURFACED AT ROME BELGIANS WERE MIFFED, NOT FOR FIRST TIME, AT LACK OF FULL CONSULTATION AND WITHHELD THEIR SUPPORT. CHAIRMANSHIP, AS REPORTED, WENT TO ITALIANS. END NO FORN.

(B) BELGIANS DO NOT SEE PARALLELISM AND ULTIMATE CONVERGENCE BETWEEN IEPG AND NATO INTER-OPERABILITY GROUP WHICH ITALIANS ARE REPORTED TO SEE (PARA 6 REFTEL). BELGIANS NOTE PARALLELISM AND POSSIBLE CONVERGENCE OF IEPG AND EUROGROUP. IF ATTEMPTS, WITHIN IEPG AND NATO, TO WEAN FRENCH INTO CLOSER COOPERATION SUCCEED, EUROGROUP MAY WITHER IF THESE ATTEMPTS FAIL, EUROGROUP WILL AGAIN RESUME ITS IMPORTANCE.

(C) BELGIANS NOTE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN RECENT WEEKS IN FRENCH POSITION VIS-A-VIS EUROPEAN COOPERATION. THEY ARE GREATLY ENCOURAGED BY THAT SHIFT, TO ACHIEVE WHICH THEY NOTE THEY HAVE WORKED FOR MANY YEARS. FOR BELGIUM, FRANCE REMAINS KEY COUNTRY WHOSE SUPPORT IS VITAL TO ACHIEVE REAL PROGRESS TOWARDS EUROPEAN UNIFICATION.
RENNER

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